

PATENT**REMARKS**

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,860,750 to Frey et al.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,000,705 to Kinka et al.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 8, 9, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,339,190 to Chung.

In the Office Action, claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,860,750 to Frey et al.

In the Office Action, claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response thereto, claim 14 has been cancelled, claims 1, 2, and 16-25 have been amended, and new claims 26-28 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-13 and 15-28 are now pending. Following is a discussion of the patentability of each of the pending claims.

Interview Summary Record

Counsel thanks Examiner Nguyen for the courtesy extended during the telephone conversation on April 5, 2005. Counsel brought to the attention of Examiner Nguyen that the status of pending claims 12-25 is not addressed in the Office Action. Examiner Nguyen stated that these claims will be addressed in the next Office Action.

Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a connector assembly for releasably affixing at least two leads to an implantable medical device. The connector assembly comprises a support, a single side clamp defining with said support confronting surfaces configured to receive proximal end portions of at least two lead bodies, and a fastener adapted to be received by the support for urging the side clamp toward the support and for clamping

PATENT

the proximal end portions of the at least two lead bodies between said confronting surfaces.

The Frey et al. reference discloses a sidelock pacer lead connector. The lead connector uses a wedge member to fix the lead against inadvertent withdrawal. The wedge member is received in a channel which intersects a bore in a header in which the lead is inserted for connection with a pulse generator. When the wedge member is pressed into its channel, it engages the lead off-axis.

The Frey et al. reference does not disclose or suggest a single side clamp defining with said support confronting surfaces configured to receive a proximal end portion of at least two lead bodies. In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 6 of the Frey et al. reference, the header may receive two leads. However, the first lead is engaged by a first wedge member (60a) and the second lead is engaged by a corresponding second wedge member (60b). No where does the Frey et al. reference disclose or suggest a single wedge member that engages two leads.

The Kinka et al. reference discloses an electrical cable connection device for use in splicing a pair of cables or terminating a single cable. The device includes a body member (12), wedge (14), and bolt (16). The end of the cable is received by an axial passage (22) through the body member, and the axial passage is intersected by a transverse passage (42) in which the wedge is slidably positioned. The wedge is drawn into tight engagement with the cable by the bolt entering the transverse passage on an opposite side of the axial passage.

The Kinka et al. reference is not directed to a connector assembly for releasably affixing at least two leads to an implantable medical device. The Kinka et al. reference discloses an electrical cable connection device for use in splicing a pair of cables or terminating a single cable. Furthermore, the Kinka et al. reference does not disclose or suggest a single side clamp defining with said support confronting surfaces configured to receive a proximal end portion of at least two lead bodies. The Kinka et al. reference discloses the securement of a first cable (18) to the body member (12) by a first wedge (14) and the securement of a second cable (20) to the body member by a second

PATENT

wedge (14). No where does the Kinka et al. reference disclose or suggest the securement of two cables by a single wedge.

The Chung reference discloses a signal distributor. The signal distributor has a main body, a screw, and a clamp attached to the screw. The main body has a ground outlet formed with a threaded hole. An orifice laterally extends through the threaded hole, and a pair of grooves axially and diametrically define an inner periphery of the threaded hole. The screw has a head, a threaded shank engageable with the threaded hole, and a flanged neck formed between the head and the threaded shank. The clamp has a strip deformable to be held in the flanged neck, two extensions extending downwardly from an under face of the strip and movable in the groove, and a contact connected to distal ends of the extensions. The contact defines a V-shaped slot in an under face thereof to engage a ground wire to be held in the orifice.

The Chung reference is not directed to a connector assembly for releasably affixing at least two leads to an implantable medical device. The Chung discloses a signal distributor for CATV systems. Furthermore, the Chung reference does not disclose or suggest a single side clamp defining with said support confronting surfaces configured to receive a proximal end portion of at least two lead bodies. The Chung reference discloses the securement of a single ground wire by engagement with the V-shaped slot of the clamp. No where does the Chung reference disclose or suggest a clamp having two V-shaped slots. Nor does the Chung reference disclose or suggest the main body having at least two orifices to accommodate at least two wires.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claim 2-13, 15, and 26

Claim 2-13, 15, and 26 depend from claim 1 and are similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 16

For at least the same reasons discussed previously with regards to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 16 is in condition for allowance.

PATENT**Dependent Claims 17-24 and 27**

Claims 17-24 and 27 depend from claim 16 and are similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 25

For at least the same reasons discussed previously with regards to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 25 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claim 28

Claim 28 depends from claim 25 and is similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 28 is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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